(d) the steps propsed to conduct a wide and intense survey to withdraw from litigation by all agencies of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The number of pending cases in the Supreme Court as on 31/12/2006 is 39780.

(b) to (d) Government have issued necessary instructions from time to time to reduce its role as a major litigant. Instructions have also been issued to all the Government agencies, including Ministries/Departments for timely redressal of the genuine grievances of the employees, so as to minimize cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and courts. The need to act upon the pronouncements of the CAT, High Courts and the Supreme Court in service matters and to streamline and improve service rules and conditions so as to reduce the litigation in service matters have also been highlighted. Moreover, the application of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques is also being encouraged and promoted.

Corruption in judiciary

54. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present and former Chief Justices of India have admitted before media that some judges face charges of impropriety but differ on percentage of prevalent corruption in judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure corruption-free judiciary in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Reports in the press have come to the notice of the Government. The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at a Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations; and Supreme Court has drawn up an In-House procedure for dealing with complaints against the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, Government has no constitutional competence to set up any Committee to look into allegation leveled against Judges of High Courts.

(c) A Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 has already been introduced in the

Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The Bill shall devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Appointment of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court

55. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges appointed in various High Courts after July, 2004 till date and their social background;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no proper representaion to OBCs in Supreme Court bench as per the OBC population;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that person belonging to the second largest language spoken in the country has not been represented in Supreme Court; and

(e) if so, whether there is any proposal before Government to rectify the anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) A total of 260 Judges were appointed in various High Courts during the period from July, 2004 to January, 2007.

Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India, respectively, which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained by the Government in regard to the appointment of SCs/STs/OBCs in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Pursuant to the Judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 in the case of Supreme Court Advocates on Record and Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, and the Advisory Opinion of the Supreme Court dated October 28, 1998, the proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, respectively. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and